



BEAR RIVER COMMISSION

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MAR 22 1994

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SALT LAKE

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MEMORANDUM BR94-8

TO: All Commission Members, the Technical Advisory Committee, and All River Commissioners

FROM: Jack A. Barnett, Engineer-Manager

SUBJECT: FILLING OF BEAR LAKE

DATE: March 21, 1994

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Carly Burton called to advise me that today Bear Lake has reached an elevation of 5911. He also further advises me that there is about 350 cfs per day entering into Bear Lake through the Rainbow Inlet Canal. Sometime this past weekend, Bear Lake reached the 5911 equivalent elevation of about 5910.94. Bear Lake's elevation has been rising at 0.02 to 0.03 feet per day. Mud Lake is at 5921.1 feet. Because of requests from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Utah Power is allowing Mud Lake to rise. It is rising at a rate of about 0.08 feet per day, and will be allowed to fill to about 5921.5 feet.

Carly indicates that he has collected data while Mud Lake has been filling. As soon as the lake reaches the target elevation, Utah Power will be in a position to work with the newly collected data to establish a new area capacity curve for Mud Lake.

This elevation of Bear Lake, of course, means that the compact-imposed storage restrictions relating to the 5911 elevation are no longer in place and reservoirs—most notably Woodruff Narrows Reservoir—can proceed to fill. It would appear most probable that the Woodruff Narrows Reservoir will fill this year.

On another subject, I attended the first meeting of the Great Salt Lake Basins NAWQA Liaison Committee on March 17 in Salt Lake City. There were about 80 in attendance. Part of the presentation was similar to the presentation that has been made to the Commission and to the Technical Advisory Committee in the past, acquainting the audience with the nature of

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NAWQA studies and with what is intended for this specific study. The U.S. Geological Survey identified that \$250,000 had been allocated for the Great Salt Lake Basins effort this year, but that because of budget cuts proposed by the Administration to the Congress, there is not funding for the study in the President's FY 95 budget.

It was then further explained that 20 project areas were started last year, and that it was intended that another 20 would be started this year. The President's budget allows for enough funds for 15 new starts. On a priority rating system, the Great Salt Lake Basins study ranked number 16. The USGS is proceeding as if there will be some restoration of funds by the Congress. Further, with the assumption that the restoration does occur and that the next priority start is allowed to go ahead, they plan the next meeting of the Liaison Committee for September 16. They anticipate that before that date, they will have a better understanding of whether or not funds will be available for the next fiscal year. They indicate that the NAWQA studies in general have high priority with the USGS, and it is their intention to continue to pursue these studies.

If funding levels are not high enough in FY 95, the USGS anticipates that as some of the earlier started units go past their maximum need for expenditure of funds, new units will be started. Hence, the Great Salt Lake Basins NAWQA study could be further funded in FY 96 or FY 97.

hsm

cc: Lee Case
Carly Burton
Lee Baxter
Robert Morgan
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E. J. Skeen
Dean Stuart
Allen Harrison
John Teichert